

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001



July 12, 2004

The Honorable Bruce Alberts
President
National Academy of Sciences
500 Fifth St., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Dr. Alberts:

The recently completed Report of the President's Commission on Implementation of United States Space Exploration Policy "... recommends that NASA ask the National Academy of Sciences to engage its constituent scientific community in a re-evaluation of priorities to exploit opportunities created by the space exploration vision. In particular, the community should consider how machines and humans, used separately and in combination, can maximize scientific returns." NASA believes that such engagement would be beneficial and continue a rich tradition of cooperative endeavor between our Agency and the Academy.

As a consequence, I propose that a NASA senior leadership team meet with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering to consider how we might collectively address the Commission's recommendations. Dr. Charles Elachi, Director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, will lead the team for NASA.

I look forward to our discussions regarding this exciting aspect of implementing the President's Vision.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean O'Keefe", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sean O'Keefe
Administrator